

**Wyoming Department of Transportation
Resolution to Allow 18 to 21 year olds to Operate Commercial Vehicles**

Background

Commercial trucking is facing increasing difficulty recruiting drivers to haul both interstate (from state to state) and intrastate (within state borders). Current federal law requires interstate drivers to be at least 21. A group of Western states, though, (including Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming) allow those at least 18 years old to drive commercial vehicles intrastate. A movement is underway to authorize consenting states to allow commercial vehicle operation by those 18 and older in contiguous states. Under such provisions, an 18 year old commercial driver's license holder in Wyoming, for example, could drive in any bordering state that entered the compact.

This situation might attract younger drivers to enter the profession and improve the ability of trucking companies to fill open positions.

It should be noted that federal laws would need to be amended to authorize states to create a voluntary compact allowing interstate commercial vehicles operation by those under 21.

Issue

In its 2017 general session, the Utah Legislature passed a resolution encouraging Congress to authorize the group of Western states described in the preceding to create a volunteer compact allowing commercial driver's license holders between 18 and 21 years old to drive interstate through other contiguous volunteer states, as detailed in the following. The Wyoming Legislature is now being asked to consider such a resolution during the 2018 session.

Legislative Recommendation

Consider sponsoring a resolution urging Congress to enact legislation permitting Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming to enter into a voluntary compact allowing drivers 18 to 21 years old with a commercial driver's license from a consenting state to operate a commercial motor vehicle in a consenting, contiguous state.

Note: No legislation permitting such drivers to operate interstate is requested at this time. Until federal law is amended, such legislation would be pre-empted.